



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Pittsburgh District**

Public Notice

In Reply Refer to
Notice No. below

US Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District
2200 William S. Moorhead Federal Building
1000 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4186

Application No. 200201005
200201006
200201007

Date: April 21, 2006

Notice No. 06-18

Closing Date: May 22, 2006

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON COMMERCIAL SAND AND GRAVEL DREDGING OPERATIONS IN THE ALLEGHENY AND OHIO RIVERS, PENNSYLVANIA

1. **TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:** Notice is given that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, has completed a final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Commercial Sand and Gravel Dredging and it is available for review in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The overall purpose of the EIS is to evaluate the environmental consequences for issuing of Sections 10 and 404 permits for Commercial Sand and Gravel Dredging in the Allegheny River (River Miles 0 – 69.5) and the Ohio River (River Miles 0 – 40).

2. **SUMMARY:** The Corps circulated a draft EIS on Commercial Sand and Gravel Dredging Operations for comment in June of 2002. This document presented three alternatives:

- No action, which is the complete cessation of commercial river dredging within the study area;
- Extraction of sand and gravel from the rivers by dredging under existing permit conditions;
- Using land-based operations or importation of sand and gravel from other locations to meet the need.

A Public Hearing was also conducted on the proposed action in September of 2002. Based on comments received and additional environmental review, a new alternative was developed. This alternative is identified as Alternative 3 in the final EIS, and is the selected or preferred alternative. Under this alternative, the Corps could reauthorize Department of the Army permits under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to Hanson Aggregates PMA, Inc., Tri-State River Products, Inc. and Glacial Sand and Gravel Company for commercial dredging activities within portions of the Ohio River between Miles 0.0 and 40.0 and the Allegheny River between Miles 0.0 and 69.5, within Pennsylvania. Such authorization would include new standard conditions and additional site specific conditions developed through an adaptive management process. Such conditions should avoid, minimize and mitigate for potential adverse environmental impacts associated with the dredging.

The final EIS is available for review and comment for a period of 30 calendar days, after which time comments will be evaluated and a Record of Decision prepared. Subsequently, new

Department of the Army permits may be finalized and issued.

3. ENCROACHMENT PERMITS: The applicants have applied for encroachment permits which include State 401 Water Quality Certification from the:

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Southwest Regional Office
Soils and Waterways Section
400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745
Telephone: (412) 442-4000

4. IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES: The Corps of Engineers has concluded informal consultation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended) on a mussel sampling protocol that would be utilized and implemented in future dredging permits. Permits issued under this EIS should not result in any adverse impacts to threatened or endangered species and if such impacts were identified or are proposed, separate formal consultation would be required.

5. IMPACT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES: The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted, and it has been determined that there are no properties currently listed on the register which would be directly affected by the proposed work. If we are made aware, as a result of comments received in response to this notice or by other means, of specific archeological, scientific, prehistorical or historical sites or structures which might be affected by the proposed work, the District Engineer will immediately take the appropriate action pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Public Law 89-665, as amended (including Public Law 96-515).

6. AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT: The EIS is available for review online at www.lrp.usace.army.mil/sg_eis.htm. Printed and compact disc (CD) copies of the EIS are available for review at the following locations during regular business hours:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, 2200 William S. Moorhead Federal Building, 1000 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
- Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15213
- Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, 5 Allegheny Square, Pittsburgh, PA 15212
- Oakmont Public Library, 700 Allegheny River Blvd., Oakmont, PA 15139
- Springdale Free Public Library, 331 School Street, Springdale, PA 15144
- People's Library, 3052 Wachter Avenue, New Kensington, PA 15068
- People's Library, 880 Barnes Street, New Kensington, PA 15068
- Community Library of Allegheny, 315 E. 6th Avenue, Tarentum, PA 15084
- Community Library of Allegheny, 1522 Broadview Blvd., Natrona Heights, PA 15065
- Freeport Area Library, 428 Market Street, Freeport, PA 16229

- Ford City Public Library, 1136 4th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226
- Kittanning Public Library, 280 N. Jefferson Street, Kittanning, PA 16201
- Sewickley Public Library, 500 Thorn Street, Sewickley, PA 15143
- Beaver Area Memorial Library, 100 College Avenue, Beaver, PA 15009
- Monaca Public Library, 609 Pennsylvania Avenue, Monaca, PA 15061
- Rochester Public Library, 252 Adams Street, Rochester, PA 15074
- New Brighton Public Library, 1021 3rd Avenue, New Brighton, PA 15066
- Baden Memorial Library, 385 State Street, Baden, PA 15005
- B. F. Jones Memorial Library, 663 Franklin Avenue, Aliquippa, PA 15001
- Carnegie Free Library, 61 9th Street, Midland, PA 15059
- Laughlin Memorial Free Library, 99 11th Street, Ambridge, PA 15003

A printed copy or CD of the EIS may also be obtained by contacting Mr. Scott Hans in writing at the mailing or electronic mail address provided below.

7. EVALUATION AND RESPONSES: All comments and factors relevant to the final EIS will be considered throughout the 30-day comment period in the preparation of the final Record of Decision and drafting of new Department of the Army permits. Written comments must be received by close of business on May 22, 2006 and should be provided to the address listed below.

8. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Scott Hans, Regulatory Branch; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District; 2200 William S. Moorhead Federal Building; 1000 Liberty Avenue; Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4186; (412) 395-7154. Comments may also be submitted by electronic mail to scott.a.hans@usace.army.mil.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

//SIGNED//

Michael J. Cummings, Jr.
Chief, Regulatory Branch